

29. The method according to claim 27 further comprising the step of heat treating the patterned block to a temperature sufficient to reduce the filter insertion loss.

30. The method according to claim 27 wherein the step of covering the block with a conductive coating includes contacting the block with a silver paste.

31. The method according to claim 27 wherein the step of ablatively etching the block is carried out using a laser beam.

32. The method according to claim 27 wherein the step of ablatively etching the block is carried out using a scanning laser.

33. A method of manufacturing an RF ceramic filter comprising the steps of:
providing a ceramic block having an outer surface with at least one pair of opposing sides and defining a plurality of through holes extending between the opposing sides;

encasing the block with a conductive coating;

heat treating the coated block;

ablatively etching the conductive metal coating and a portion of the underlying ceramic block from selected areas of the heat-treated coated block to form a pattern of metallized and unmetallized recessed areas on the block; and

heat treating the patterned block.

34. The method according to claim 33 wherein the step of ablatively etching the block is carried out using a scanning laser.

35. The method according to claim 33 further comprising the step of heat treating the patterned block to a temperature sufficient to reduce the filter insertion loss.

36. The method according to claim 33 wherein the step of ablatively etching the block is carried out using a laser beam.

37. A method of manufacturing an RF ceramic filter comprising the steps of:
providing a block of ceramic material;

encasing the block with a conductive coating;

heat treating the coated block;

ablatively etching with a laser selected areas of the heat-treated coated block to form a pattern of unmetallized recessed areas and unablated metallized areas on the block; and

heat treating the patterned block.

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38. A method of manufacturing an RF ceramic filter comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a ceramic block having an outer surface with at least one pair of opposing sides and defining a plurality of through holes extending between the opposing sides;
- (b) encasing the block with a conductive coating;
- (c) heat treating the coated block;
- (d) ablatively etching with a laser the conductive metal coating and a portion of the underlying ceramic block from selected areas of the heat-treated coated block to form a pattern of metallized and unmetallized recessed areas on the block, wherein the pattern of metallized and unmetallized recessed areas includes a transmitter pad, an antenna pad and a receiver pad;

repeating steps (a) through (d) to make a plurality of patterned blocks and thereafter heat treating the plurality of patterned block .

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct inadvertent editorial errors and to add a cross-reference to the parent, priority application. A mark-up copy of the specification amendments accompanies this letter.

New claims 1-17 are under consideration. Claims 1-17 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 27-39. No additional claim fee is believed to be due inasmuch as only four independent claims and only eight dependent claims are presented for consideration. However, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-1677.

Support for new independent claims 27, 33, 37 and 38 is found at p. 5, lines 1-24 and canceled claims 1, 2 and 7. Support for the transmitter pad, antenna pad and receiver pad feature of new independent claim 38 is found at page 11, lines 7-12. Support for new claims 28, 29, 34 and 35 is found on page 5, lines 23-24, page 15, lines 8-14, FIGURES 7 and 8, and cancelled claim 5. Support for new claim 30 is found at page 5, lines 6-7. Support for new claims 31, 32 and 36 is found at page 5, line 9-12 and canceled claim 6.